



Michio CHÛJÔ
On Mt. Gozaisho-dake, Mie Pref., 1 Oct. 1983.

In Memoriam Michio CHÛJÔ (13 Sept. 1908–9 June 2004)

Masataka SATÔ

I wish to extend my sincere condolence to Michio CHÛJÔ, honorary member of the Entomological Society of Japan, who passed away on 9 June 2004, at the age of 95. He took the role of leadership at the dawn and development period of entomological science, in Taiwan before the Second World War and in Shikoku after the War.

Born on 13 September 1908, at Koishikawa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, he entered Tokyo Municipal Daiichi Junior High School, but he and his family, being struck by the Kantô Great Earthquake, moved to Taiwan. He continued his studies at Taihoku Civic Daiichi High School, and then specialized in forestry at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry of Taihoku Imperial University. In 1933, he was adopted as an assistant of the Entomological Laboratory of his alma mater and from 1936 onward also held a post of associate professor specializing agriculture and forestry, and in 1942 became a professor.

While in University, he wrote a great deal about the Erotylidae, Languriidae, Bostrychidae, Lyctidae, Bruchidae, Endomychidae and Ciidae of the “Fauna Nipponica”. He continuously released the “Catalogus Coleopterorum Japonicorum” coau-

thored with Yûshirô MIWA, thus establishing the golden age of the coleopterology in Taiwan. At the same time, he contributed much to the Odonata.

However, at the end of the War in 1945, he was forced to return to Japan with his whole materials left in Taiwan. How regrettable he was! He used to tell us how desperately he managed to carry with him his doctoral dissertation thesis almost completed. Later, he told us that when he visited Taiwan again, he was deeply impressed to find his former office left in the same condition as he used to work there.

After coming back to Japan, he taught at Tokushima Higher Normal School, and in 1948, according to the change of education systems, assumed a professor of the Faculty of Liberal Arts of Tokushima University. Soon in 1950, he moved to Kagawa Prefectural Agriculture University as a professor, and when it was nationalized as Kagawa University, he assumed professor of biology and settled there until his retirement age in 1972.

After retirement, he continued teaching at Meijo University, Faculty of Agriculture, for several years, until he was hospitalized due to cardiac infarction. As soon as he recovered, he devoted himself to his researches again at home and published the Old World Catalogue of Erotylidae, coauthored with his son.

Though he was compelled to live in confusion after the Second World War, he assiduously concentrated on his researches and produced more than 350 original papers mainly on the Chrysomelidae and Erotylidae, and published “Illustration of the Japanese Chrysomelid-beetles Injurious to the Useful Forest Trees” (1954), and “Fauna Japonica, Erotylidae” (1969). Meanwhile, he acquired the doctoral degree of agriculture in 1954.

As for the Entomological Society of Japan, he was in a position of councilor for many years after 1950 as a dominant member of the Shikoku branch, and in 1964, presided the 24th Annual Meeting in Takamatsu.

Nominated as an honorary member of the Hungarian Entomological Society, he successfully traveled to Budapest in 1961, even though going overseas was quite difficult during this period, especially to the communist bloc. After the War, Japan was gradually recovering from the chaos but still academic exchanges with foreign countries were not much in progress. Taking advantage of this opportunity, CHÛJÔ enlarged the circle of research colleagues abroad, which exerted great influence on Japanese entomologists.

In this period, various research groups began to be sent to Southeast Asia, and he, training Japanese young researchers, served as the central figure of summing up the results obtained on beetles, supported by European colleagues.

As regards his family, he kept perfectly good terms with his deceased wife, Aiko, and had three sons and one daughter. When young researchers visited his university, he used to welcome them to his home like family members. I myself am significantly indebted to his generosity and wisdom. I wish to express my heartfelt condolences here again.